

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property  
Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
6 May 2005 (06.05.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2005/041539 A2**

(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: **H04L 29/14**

(21) International Application Number:  
PCT/EP2003/011196

(22) International Filing Date: 9 October 2003 (09.10.2003)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

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(81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH,

GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

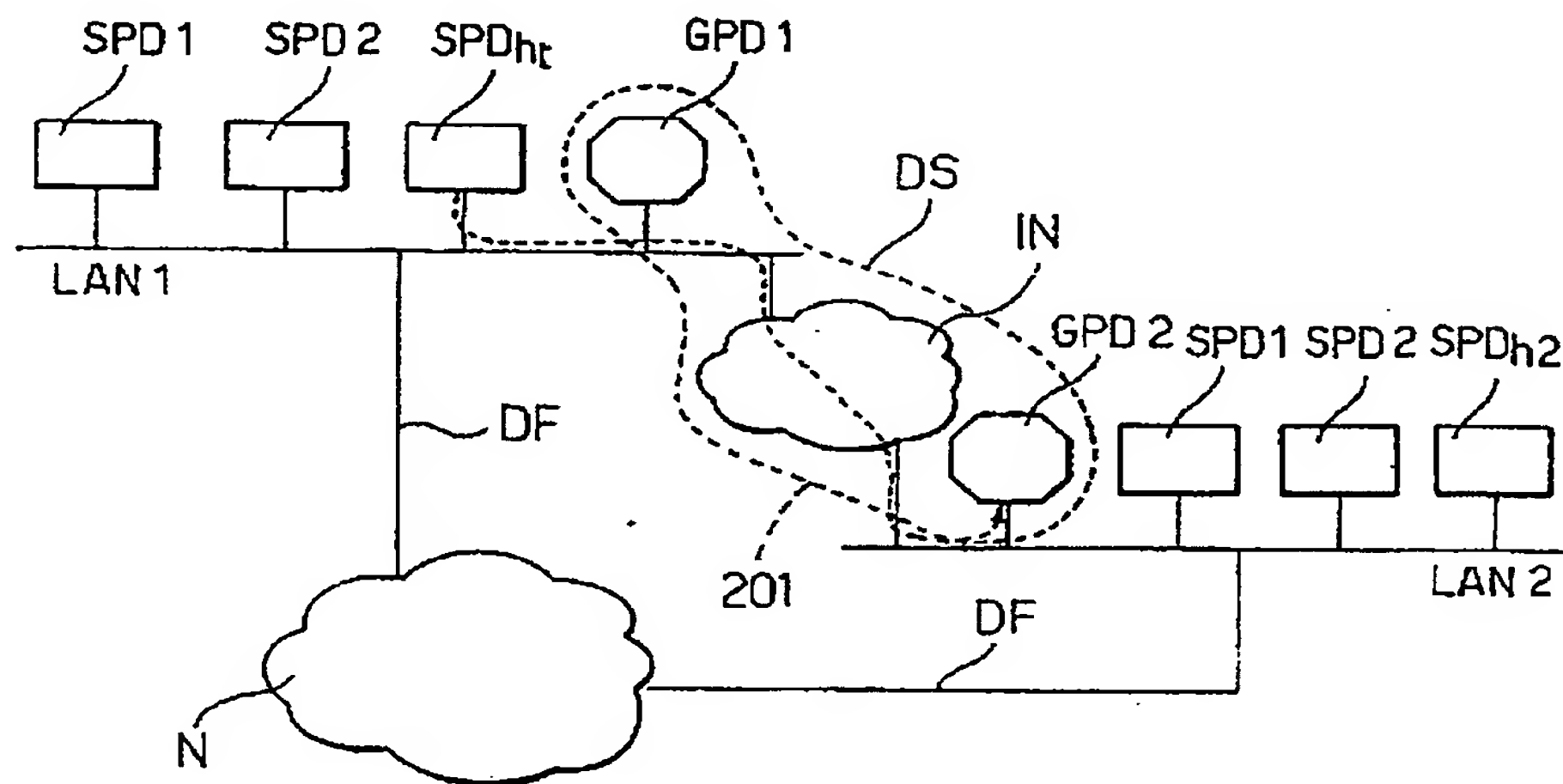
(84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, I.U, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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(54) Title: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR FAULT PROTECTION IN COMMUNICATION NETWORKS, RELATED NETWORK AND COMPUTER PROGRAM PRODUCT



(57) Abstract: A method of providing fault protection of special purpose devices (SPDs) included in at least one communication network (LAN1, LAN2, LAN3) and performing respective functions (F1, F2, F3, F4), includes the steps of:- providing a set of general purpose devices (GPDs) adapted to be configured to perform said respective functions (F1, F2, F3, F4), and - in the presence of a faulty condition in any of said respective functions (F1, F2, F3, F4) of the special purpose devices (SPDs), applying at least one of the general purpose devices (GPDs) in performing the respective function exposed to said faulty condition. Preferably, the general purpose devices (GPDs) are configured for resource sharing; resources needed to perform a respective function exposed to a faulty condition can thus be transferred to a general purpose device (GPD1) in the set from another general purpose device (GPD2) in the same set. The set of general purpose devices (GPDs) is preferably arranged as a distributed system (DS).



patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG)

— of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv)) for US only

**Published:**

— without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report

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